

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074152
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05
TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00
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TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, BG, US

SUBJECT: CALL OF COMMERCE ADVISOR SAIFUR RAHMAN ON DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS

1. BANGLADESH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR (COMMERCE) SAIFUR RAHMAN
CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS MARCH 30. DUBS
WAS LAST MINUTE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHER-
TON WHO WAS UNAVOIDABLY CALLED AWAY.

2. RAHMAN NOTED THAT ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR HIS VISIT
WAS TO SERVE AS THE FIRST BANGLADESHI CABINET LEVEL CON-
TACT WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. AN ADDITIONAL REASON
WAS THE PROMOTION OF U.S. INVESTMENT IN BANGLADESH. RE-
GARDING THAT, THE ADVISOR CITED IMPROVED ECONOMIC CONDI-
TIONS AND PRICE STABILITY IN BANGLADESH WHICH HE SAID PRO-
VIDED A CONGENIAL CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT. IN BOTH NEW YORK
AND WASHINGTON, HE SAID, HE HAD MET UITH BUSINESS GROUPS
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FROM WHOM HE EXPECTS POSITIVE RESPONSES REGARDING INVEST-
MENT. POSSIBLE FIELDS FOR THIS COULD INCLUDE OIL, GAS,
FERTILIZER, CHEMICALS, TIRES, AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS, AND,
POSSIBLY, RADIOS, TVS, AND ITEMS FOR EXPORTS.

3. PL 480 TITLE I - RAHMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE PREVIOUS

DAY HE HAD ASKED DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE WHITE FOR 300,000 TONS OF FOODGRAINS BEYOND THE 200,000 TONS CURRENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION. HE ASSERTED THAT THE CURRENT HARVEST, HAVING BEEN AFFECTED BY FARAKKA WATER DIVERSIONS, HAS PRODUCED AT LEAST 200,000 TONS BELOW THE AMOUNT EXPECTED. IN ADDITION THE HARVEST UP TO LAST NOVEMBER PRODUCED LESS THAN WAS FORECAST AND THE BDG WAS UNABLE TO MEET ITS DOMESTIC PROCUREMENT TARGET OF 400,000 TONS AND, IN FACT, HAD PROCURED LESS THAN 200,000 TONS. CURRENT STOCK LEVELS WERE 300,000 TONS WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE EXHAUSTED BY JULY 1, THUS CREATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A LAW AND ORDER SITUATION WITH SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR STABILITY. RAHMAN ALSO THREW IN A REQUEST FOR 40,000 TONS OF VEGOIL BUT DID NOT PROVIDE ANY SUPPORTING RATIONALE.

4. DUBS NOTED THE REPORTS OF FOODGRAIN SPOILAGE WHICH HAD ACCOMPANIED THE TWO PREVIOUS YEARS OF GOOD HARVEST. THESE REPORTS HAD CAUSED CONCERN IN THE ADMINISTRATION, AND HAD SPARKED APPRECIABLE CRITICISM FROM CAPITOL HILL. WE WOULD EXAMINE THE SITUATION CAREFULLY BEFORE WE ACT ON THE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL GRAIN. DUBS TOLD RAHMAN THAT WE WILL LOOK SYMPATHETICALLY AT THE BDG REQUEST AND WILL BE GUIDED PRIMARILY BY AMBASSADOR MASTERS ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION.

5. PL 480 TITLE II - RAHMAN MENTIONED THE SUCCESS OF THE FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM AND THE NEED TO CONTINUE IT IN THE COMING MONTHS. FOR THIS PURPOSE, HE ASKED FOR AN ADDITIONAL OFFICIAL USE

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TIONAL 100,000 TONS OF GRAIN ON TOP OF THE 100,000 CURRENTLY PROGRAMMED.
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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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